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NORTH CAROLINA



COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. WHAT CHANGE OCCURRED IN THE PROSPECTIVE TOBACCO CROP?
2. CURRENT INDICATIONS POINT TO A CORN CROP ABOVE OR BELOW THE 1948 CROP?
3. EGG PRODUCTION DURING AUGUST INDICATES THAT N. C. HENS ARE LAYING MORE OR FEWER EGGS THAN DURING 1948?
4. THE N. C. PEANUT CROP SHOULD BE ABOVE OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S CROP?
5. WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF N. C. COTTON CROP?
6. SWEETPOTATO CROP IMPROVED DURING AUGUST DUE TO?
7. WEATHER CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN FAVORABLE OR UNFAVORABLE TO ALL HAY CROPS?
8. THE TABLE ON PAGE 3 SHOWS A MORE FAVORABLE OR UNFAVORABLE CROP YEAR?
9. MILK PRODUCTION DURING AUGUST CONTINUED UP OR DOWN?
10. WHAT IS THE CURRENT OUTLOOK FOR N. C. COMMERCIAL APPLE CROP?

No. 45

RALEIGH, N. C.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1949

SEPTEMBER 1, 1949 GENERAL FARM REPORT

GENERAL SITUATION

On August 28 high winds and heavy rains swept across most of the State as the first tropical hurricane died out here. As tobacco crops were mostly housed, damage to this crop was insignificant. However, corn fields showed considerable effects of the "blow", particularly from Raleigh westward, being centered in a northwestern track through Anson, Cabarrus and Catawba counties. Since most of the corn in the area hit by winds was not yet mature, damage to the crop should not be excessive, provided the fall months are not too wet.

Harvesting of late summer hay crops was delayed as a result of rainy weather. Some early cuttings of these hays were lost or damaged due to frequent rains. Haying operations are now in full swing in Piedmont counties where a great part of the lespedeza hay is produced. However, the late August rains have temporarily halted haying operations which, in turn, are delaying the preparation of land for the planting of small grains.

Harvesting of flue-cured tobacco is completed in the East and nearly so throughout most of the Piedmont counties. Auction markets for flue-cured tobacco are open in all except the Old Belt. Tobacco prospects declined some during the month of August as it became evident through marketings that the crop was not weighing out as heavy as expected. The quality of leaf offered to-date has been below that of last year.

Peanut prospects showed some improvement although the crop in some counties is in danger of damage from continuous heavy rains. Prospective production of hay crops made further improvement during August.

Cotton prospects dropped off during the month as a result of continued unfavorable weather conditions and insect activities. Cotton is opening slowly due to rainy weather and rank plant growth.

NORTH CAROLINA TOBACCO PROSPECTS DROP DURING AUGUST

The production outlook for North Carolina's Flue-Cured tobacco crop is placed at 747 million pounds. This indication, based on conditions as of September 1, points to a crop somewhat above the 739 million pounds produced last year, and about 11 percent above the 1938-47 average.

Unfavorable weather conditions during August caused a rather sharp decline in prospects for the State's Flue-Cured tobacco crop. In the Type 11 belt where harvesting was in full swing prospective production as of September 1 dropped 17 million pounds below the forecast a month earlier.

In the Eastern Belt (Type 12) prospective yields declined 50 pounds per acre under the August 1 forecast of 1290 pounds. As of September 1 production of Type 12 tobacco was estimated at 384,400,000 pounds.

Prospects for the Burley Crop (Type 31) declined from 17.1 million pounds as of August 1 to 16.5 million pounds as of September 1.

CORN PROSPECTS RECORD HIGH

Provided harvest weather conditions are favorable, North Carolina farmers will house the largest corn crop of record this year. Based on growers' estimates of the condition and prospective yield for their crops on September 1, production is now placed at 71,247,000 bushels. This is an increase of 3.1 percent from the estimate of August 1, and 3.2 percent above the 69,006,000 bushels produced last year. Production currently indicated for this year is one-third greater than the 1938-47 average of 53,124,000 bushels.

The indicated yield for North Carolina on September 1 is 33.0 bushels per acre, a record high, and compares with 31.0 bushels for 1948 and surpasses the 1938-47 average by 10 bushels.

Total corn acreage for harvest for all purposes in North Carolina is currently estimated at 2,159,000 acres, 3.1 percent less than the acreage harvested in 1948. Therefore, the record high production indicated for this year is due to prospective higher yields.

FIELD CORN YIELD SURVEY NOW UNDERWAY IN ALL COUNTIES

C. E. BURKHEAD, Head of Field Crops Division of the Washington Crop Reporting Service Explains Survey to Wake County Farmer.



EGG PRODUCTION UP 4 PERCENT

Production of eggs on North Carolina farms during August totaled 70 million - 4 percent more than in August last year, but 15 percent below production for the previous month.

The number of layers on North Carolina farms in August is estimated at 6,472,000, 1 percent less than the number of layers reported for July, but 9 percent more layers than were on farms in August of last year.

The number of eggs produced per 100 layers declined sharply during August, giving a decrease of 176 eggs per 100 layers below the rate of lay reported for July, and 4 percent less than August of last year. This decline in the rate of lay can probably be attributed to hot weather, the early addition of pullets to laying flocks and lighter culling of flocks.

Total egg production in North Carolina for the first 8 months of this year was 777 million eggs - or 9 percent more eggs than were produced during the corresponding period last year.

Farm flocks over the Nation laid 3,853,000,000 eggs in August - 1 percent less than in August last year.

PEANUT CROP IMPROVES

The North Carolina peanut crop for picking and threshing improved considerably during the past month. Probably production for this year, based on September 1 conditions, was set at 266,200,000 pounds.

Although the crop has shown marked improvement, production prospects are still far below last year's production of 346,625,000 pounds. However, yield prospects and acreage both are below 1948, accounting for the sharp drop in total production. This year's average yield per acre is currently estimated at 1,100 pounds per acre, while the yield in 1948 was 1,175 pounds. The 1938-47 average yield per acre is 1,124 pounds. This year's acreage of 242,000 to be harvested compares with 295,000 acres harvested in 1948 and the 10-year average of 274,000 acres.

Excessive rains during the early part of July damaged the crop to some extent and caused a halt in growth. However, since that time, weather and soil conditions have generally been favorable and the crop has recovered remarkably well.

Total production in 1949 for the United States is currently estimated at 1,792 million pounds. This compares with last year's production of 2,338 million pounds and the 1938-47 average of 1,846 million pounds.

MILK PRODUCTION STILL HIGH

Milk cows on North Carolina farms produced an estimated 150 million pounds of milk during August. This equals the previous record for the month of August which was established in 1944. The 358,000 cows in herds produced an average of 420 pounds per cow during the month. This compares with 438 pounds produced per cow in July and June and 419 pounds during August of last year.

Conditions during August continued very favorable for the production of milk. Pasture conditions improved over July and was reported as being 94 percent of normal on September 1. Hence, pastures furnished more than the usual proportion of total feed requirements during August.

GRAIN SORGHUM CROP BELOW 1948

Condition of grain sorghums as of September 1 point to a production of 425,000 bushels for this year. This will mean a harvest 8 percent below that for 1948. The smaller crop anticipated for this year is due entirely to a decline in acreage for harvest, since the estimated yield is higher than was realized last year.

Grain sorghum acreage for harvest this year is estimated at 17,000 acres, compared with 21,000 acres in 1948. Based on the September 1 condition of the crops, a yield of 25 bushels per acre is expected, which is 3 bushels above the 1948 yield.

Harvest of grain sorghums usually begins around October 1 or after first killing frosts.

NORTH CAROLINA'S COTTON CROP DROPS 30,000 BALES

Cotton prospects declined considerably during the month of August, with the September 1 forecast of expected production now placed at 540,000 bales. This is 30,000 bales below the August 1 forecast, 138,000 bales below production last year, and 9,000 bales below the 10-year average. For the most part, weather conditions during August continued unfavorable for cotton production. There was a short period during the month which could be termed "cotton weather". However, in general this period was of short duration and was followed by damp, rainy spells conducive to rank weed growth and continued increase in boll weevil and boll worm population which are taking a heavy toll from the 1949 crop. Cotton is beginning to open in southeastern counties, with

ginning in progress but recent wet weather is delaying harvesting operations.

The acreage for harvest is now placed at 813,000 acres, which is 11 percent above the 730,000 acres harvested in 1949 and 9 percent greater than the 10-year average. The 1949 acreage is the State's largest since 1943.

The prospective yield of 319 pounds of lint per acre is 128 pounds less than the average produced in 1948 and 36 pounds under the 10-year average yield. This is the lowest yield per acre since 1939.

September 1 conditions point to a crop of 14,943,000 bales for the Nation as a whole. This compares with 14,805,000 bales forecast on August 1 and 14,868,000 bales produced in 1948. Details of the September 1 report, by States, follow:

COTTON: CONDITION, ESTIMATED ACREAGE FOR HARVEST AND PRODUCTION, SEPTEMBER 1, 1949, ALL STATES

STATE	ACREAGE FOR HARVEST 1949 CROP	SEPT. 1 CONDITION			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION (500# BALES)		
		AVER- AGE 1938- 1947	1948 CROP	INDI- CATED 1949 CROP	AVER- AGE 1938- 1947	1948 CROP	INDI- CATED 1949 CROP	AVER- AGE 1938- 1947	1948 CROP	INDI- CATED 1949 CROP
	(000)	(PERCENT)			(POUNDS)			(000) BALES		
N. CAROLINA..	813	76	89	67	355	447	319	549	678	540
MISSOURI.....	536	77	90	86	451	460	425	356	506	475
VIRGINIA.....	32	-	-	-	348	447	345	22	24	23
S. CAROLINA..	1,203	70	85	57	309	372	239	716	871	600
GEORGIA.....	1,455	68	80	59	235	279	198	779	745	600
FLORIDA.....	44	-	-	-	164	289	196	14	15	18
TENNESSEE....	804	76	83	76	368	417	373	523	670	625
ALABAMA.....	1,755	71	84	59	262	353	246	901	1,197	900
MISSISSIPPI..	2,726	69	89	57	318	441	255	1,588	2,353	1,450
ARKANSAS.....	2,384	72	89	68	334	428	322	1,329	1,982	1,600
LOUISIANA....	1,038	64	79	66	261	382	289	528	756	625
OKLAHOMA.....	1,158	65	74	75	163	175	170	521	374	410
TEXAS.....	10,296	69	70	88	170	176	233	2,722	3,150	5,000
NEW MEXICO...	312	87	94	89	497	542	477	119	236	310
ARIZONA.....	375	87	94	97	423	558	576	174	328	450
CALIFORNIA...	957	93	87	93	602	576	652	447	968	1,300
OTHER STATES..	19	-	-	-	413	432	422	16	15	17
U. S.....	25,907	71	82	74	254.0	313.1	276.9	11,306	14,868	14,943

HAY PROSPECTS IMPROVE

As of September 1 total hay production in North Carolina is indicated at 1,320,000 tons, an increase of almost 2 percent from the August 1 estimate. Improved prospects for lespedeza hay accounted for practically all of the increase.

Production of alfalfa hay, at an estimated yield of 2.4 tons per acre, totals 122,000 tons showing no change from the previous month's estimate. In many counties four cuttings from alfalfa crops have been quite common this year. In most instances the last cutting has been made from this crop, since adequate plant growth is desirable for winter carry-over.

Prospects for the production of clover-timothy hays remain the same as previously estimated. This will mean a production of 106,000 tons at 1.25 tons per acre.

SWEETPOTATO CROP UP 12 PERCENT

September 1 conditions point to a sweetpotato crop for North Carolina that is 12 percent above 1948 production, but 18 percent below the 1938-47 average. The prospective crop is estimated at 6,318,000 bushels. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 54,000 - 10 percent more than the 49,000 acres harvested in 1948, but 26 percent less than the 1938-47 average.

Average yield per acre is estimated at 117 bushels, 2 bushels more than the 1948 average, and 11 bushels above the 1938-47 average.

Favorable weather and soil conditions prevailed during August in the important sweetpotato producing area of the Southeastern part of the State, raising prospective yields 2 bushels per acre above the forecast a month ago.

SOYBEAN PROSPECTS UNCHANGED

Prospective production of soybeans for beans in North Carolina showed no change during the month of August. September 1 condition of the crop continued to point toward a crop of 3,752,000 bushels. This is about 5 percent above the production of 3,564,000 bushels in 1948 and 50 percent above the 1938-47 average.

If this year's current prospects materialize, it will mean an average yield of 14.0 bushels per acre from the 268,000 (equivalent solid) acres of beans to be harvested. Last year there were 264,000 acres harvested in the state, yielding an average of 13.5 bushels per acre. The 1938-47 average yield per acre for the state is 11.8 bushels.

Total indicated production in the U. S. as of September 1 was set at 204,207,000 bushels.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES

ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS 1948 AND INDICATED SEPTEMBER 1, 1949

CROPS	ACREAGE			YIELD			PRODUCTION			
	AVERAGE	HARVESTED	INDICATED	AVERAGE		INDICATED	AVERAGE	REVISED	INDICATED	
	1938-47#	1948	1949	1938-47	1948	1949	1938-47	1948	1949	
- THOUSAND-										
CORN, ALL.....	BU.	2,320	2,226	2,159	23.0	31.0	33.0	53,124	69,006	71,247
WHEAT, ALL.....	BU.	459	390	445	14.8	15.5	13.0	6,805	6,045	5,785
OATS.....	BU.	305	270	405	26.6	29.5	30.0	8,226	7,965	12,150
BARLEY.....	BU.	32	34	36	23.7	23.5	26.0	764	799	936
RYE.....	BU.	40	22	21	10.6	12.5	12.5	407	275	262
TOBACCO, ALL.....	LBS.	663	604	641	1,025.0	1,252.0	1,191.0	685,066	756,684	763,400
TYPE 11.....	LBS.	256	233	245	954.0	1,190.0	1,100.0	246,663	277,270	269,500
TYPE 12.....	LBS.	323	290	310	1,067.0	1,285.0	1,240.0	346,606	372,650	384,400
TYPE 13.....	LBS.	75	71	75	1,058.0	1,260.0	1,240.0	80,446	89,460	93,000
TYPE 31.....	LBS.	9	10	11	1,240.0	1,680.0	1,500.0	11,351	17,304	16,500
COTTON.....	LBS.	756	730	811	355	447	337.0	549*	678	570
IRISH POTATOES, ALL.....	BU.	83	71	62	110.0	148.0	127.0	9,128	10,508	7,874
SWEET POTATOES.....	BU.	73	49	54	106.0	115.0	117.0	7,714	5,635	6,318
SOYBEANS, FOR BEANS.....	BU.	212	264	268	11.8	13.5	14.0	2,505	3,564	3,752
SOYBEANS, GROWN ALONE.....	BU.	376	384	353	-	-	-	-	-	-
COWPEAS, GROWN ALONE.....	BU.	132	55	55	-	-	-	-	-	-
PEANUTS, GROWN ALONE.....	LBS.	291	314	254	-	-	-	-	-	-
PEANUTS, INTERPLANTED.....	LBS.	3	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
PEANUTS, PICKED & THRESHED.....	LBS.	274	295	242	1,124.0	1,175.0	1,100.0	305,596	346,625	266,200
HAY, ALL.....	TONS	1,215	1,230	1,179	.99	1.04	1.12	1,201	1,284	1,320
CLOVER & TIMOTHY.....	TONS	75	86	85	1.13	1.10	1.25	85	95	106
ALFALFA HAY.....	TONS	11	39	51	2.06	2.35	2.40	23	92	122
LESPEDeza HAY.....	TONS	437	503	493	1.09	1.10	1.20	478	553	592
PASTURE CONDITION.....	%	-	-	-	84	85	94	-	-	-
PEACHES, ALL.....	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,220	1,646	1,428
APPLES, COMMERCIAL.....	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	958	976	416
PEARS.....	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	301	209	130
GRAPES.....	TONS	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.1	5.6	4.6
SORGHUMS, FOR GRAIN.....	BU.	-	21	17	-	22.0	25.0	-	462	425
PECANS, ALL.....	LBS.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,507	2,752	2,021
UNITED STATES										
CORN, ALL.....	BU.	88,617	85,439	85,780	31.4	42.7	41.1	2,787,628	3,650,543	3,525,741
WHEAT, ALL.....	BU.	59,854	71,904	75,481	16.6	17.9	15.0	991,950	1,288,406	1,131,830
OATS.....	BU.	38,347	40,191	40,619	32.1	37.1	32.4	1,234,082	1,491,752	1,314,258
BARLEY.....	BU.	12,720	12,046	10,019	24.0	26.3	23.3	304,741	317,037	233,395
RYE.....	BU.	2,874	2,097	1,586	12.1	12.6	11.9	35,109	26,388	18,831
TOBACCO, ALL.....	LBS.	1,654	1,555	1,626	1,033	1,275	1,227	1,718,375	1,981,730	1,994,183
TOBACCO, FLUE-CURED.....	LBS.	971	883	941	1,011	1,233	1,201	989,925	1,089,584	1,130,830
COTTON.....	LBS.	22,015	23,110	26,380	-	-	-	-	-	-
IRISH POTATOES, ALL.....	BU.	2,730	2,099	1,898	145.5	212.4	191.3	393,403	445,850	363,061
SWEET POTATOES.....	BU.	711	514	524	89.7	96.9	99.1	63,626	49,806	51,904
SOYBEANS FOR BEANS.....	BU.	8,025	10,311	9,686	18.7	21.4	21.1	148,381	220,201	204,207
COWPEAS, ALONE.....	BU.	2,459	1,115	1,110	-	-	-	-	-	-
PEANUTS, PICKED & THRESHED.....	LBS.	2,718	3,311	2,546	692	706	704	1,845,718	2,338,470	1,792,100
HAY, ALL.....	TONS	73,966	73,616	73,360	1.34	1.36	1.34	99,539	99,846	98,077
ALFALFA.....	TONS	14,731	15,014	16,719	2.18	2.27	2.21	32,217	34,083	36,940
CLOVER & TIMOTHY.....	TONS	21,607	21,995	20,290	1.36	1.33	1.27	29,575	29,309	25,678
PASTURE, CONDITION.....	%	-	-	-	75	79	79	-	-	-
PEACHES.....	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	68,947	65,352	75,729
APPLES, COMMERCIAL.....	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	111,114	88,407	129,423
PEARS.....	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,832	26,334	35,505
GRAPES.....	TONS	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,736	3,044	3,049
SORGHUMS, FOR GRAINS.....	BU.	6,292	7,298	6,020	16.0	18.0	19.7	102,398	131,644	118,754
PECANS, ALL.....	LBS.	-	-	-	-	-	-	110,620	177,667	136,872

* Includes Government purchases from unharvested acres in 1947.
500 lb. gross wt. bales.

FARM REPORT

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Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Raleigh, N. C.

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SEPTEMBER 1949

FARM REPORT

PAGE 4

INDICATED PRODUCTION OF PECANS AND FRUIT CROPS BELOW AVERAGE

The production of pecans in North Carolina during 1949 was estimated at 2,021,000 pounds as of September 1. If the September 1 prospects materialize the 1949 crop will be about three-quarters of a million pounds less than 1948 and about half a million pounds less than the ten-year average.

North Carolina's commercial apple crop was estimated at 416,000 bushels as of September 1. A crop this size would be about 57 percent short of the 976,000 bushels produced in 1948 and 56 percent short of the 10-year average production. The late spring freeze and cold rainy weather during the pollinating season are primarily responsible for the short apple crop.

The September 1 estimated production of grapes at 4,600 tons compares with 5,600 tons in 1948 and the 10-year average production of 5,190 tons.

The 1949 pear crop was estimated at 130,000 bushels as of September 1. A crop this size would be about 38 percent short of the 209,000 bushels produced in 1948 and 57 percent less than the 10-year average

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER DOWN

Commercial slaughter of livestock in North Carolina, including slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter, but excluding farm slaughter, during July was lower than June and also lower than July of last year. Only in the case of the number of hogs did slaughter during July of this year equal last year, however, the total liveweight was less this year.

NORTH CAROLINA LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

SPECIES	JULY				JANUARY-JULY TOTAL			
	NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT		NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT	
	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949
	THOUS. HEAD	THOUS. HEAD	THOUS. LBS.	THOUS. LBS.	THOUS. HEAD	THOUS. HEAD	THOUS. LBS.	THOUS. LBS.
CATTLE.....	8.5	6.0	6,906	5,008	69.2	43.1	52,791	35,105
CALVES.....	11.4	5.4	1,908	888	83.1	48.2	12,254	7,830
SHEEP & LAMBS.....	.6	.5	48	36	2.5	1.5	217	128
HOGS.....	22.0	22.0	4,620	5,111	202.0	183.0	43,882	41,024

AUGUST WEATHER SUMMARY

August was a month of contrasts. While the average temperatures over the State were generally only slightly above normal, periods of both unusually cool and hot weather occurred. Readings well above seasonal averages were common during the first half of the month with the second week particularly hot and dry in most areas. Cool air moved into the State on the 20th limiting temperatures to the 60's in western sections and 70's at most other places for a few days. Morning temperatures in the 50's were reported in western Piedmont and Mountain areas on several mornings during that "cool snap". Rain occurred frequently during the latter half of the month. Some showers were very heavy especially in the central Piedmont where as much as 5 and 6 inches fell around the 16th and 17th. A dying hurricane produced heavy rains and high winds on August 28th. August this year was one of the wettest in about a decade.

NORTH CAROLINA
INCHES OF RAINFALL
DURING AUGUST, 1949

